

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A clamp to support a multi-part cable having at least a transmission portion and a coextensive support portion, the clamp comprising:

a housing defining an open interior volume and a first recess for receiving at least a portion of a transmission portion of a multi-part cable and having a first gripping surface for engaging at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable;

a slide receivable in the housing and being shiftable between a first position in which the slide is separate from the housing and a second position in which the slide is received in the housing and cooperates with the housing to create a clamping force therebetween;

a shim being generally disposable in the housing between the housing and the slide, the shim defining a second recess for receiving at least a portion of a transmission portion of a multi-part cable and having a second gripping surface for engaging at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable;

the clamping force causing the first and second gripping surfaces to grip at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable;

the first and second recesses cooperating to provide relief such that the clamping force does not exceed a predetermined amount for at least a portion of at least a transmission portion of a multi-part cable; and

a hanger attached to either the housing or the slide to support the clamp.

2. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first and second recesses cooperate to provide substantially complete relief from the clamping force for at least a portion of a transmission portion of a multi-part cable received in the housing.

3. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces comprises an abrasive surface to enhance gripping of at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable.

4. A clamp in accordance with Claim 3, wherein both the first and second gripping surfaces comprise an abrasive surface to enhance gripping of at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable.

5. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first and second gripping surfaces grip at least a portion of a coextensive portion of a multi-part cable at a location generally adjacent to a transmission portion the multi-part cable.

6. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first and second gripping surfaces grip at least a portion of a coextensive support portion of a multi-part cable at a location immediately adjacent to a transmission portion the multi-part cable.

7. A clamp in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the abrasive surface comprises an intentionally roughened portion of at least a portion of at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces.

8. A clamp in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the intentionally roughened portion is created by subjecting at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces to sandblasting.

9. A clamp in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the abrasive surface includes at least one projection.

10. A clamp in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections.

11. A clamp in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the at least one projection comprises an elongated configuration.

12. A clamp in accordance with Claim 11, wherein the at least one projection is elongated in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the housing.

13. A clamp in accordance with Claim 12, wherein the at least one projection is formed by stamping the housing with a stamp having a U-shaped configuration.

14. A clamp in accordance with Claim 12, wherein the at least one projection comprises a generally D-shaped configuration.

15. A clamp in accordance with Claim 12, wherein the at least one projection comprises a generally triangular-shaped configuration.

16. A clamp in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the at least one projection comprises a generally circular configuration.

17. A clamp in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the housing includes a pair of side walls and a center base, the center base including the first recess.

18. A clamp in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the center base includes the at least one projection.

19. A clamp in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the at least one projection comprises at least one punched perforation extending into the interior volume of the housing, wherein the extending portion of the at least one perforation is flattened such that the first gripping surface has no sharp edges.

20. A clamp in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the plurality of projections are disposed in two longitudinal rows, with a first longitudinal row disposed between the first recess and a first side wall of the housing and a second longitudinal row disposed between the first recess and a second side wall of the housing.

21. A clamp in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the first recess is free of projections.

22. A clamp in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the shim includes the at least one projection.

23. A clamp in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the at least one projection comprises at least one punched perforation extending from a surface of the shim, wherein the extending portion of the at least one perforation is flattened such that the second gripping surface has no sharp edges.

24. A clamp in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the shim includes a first side edge and a second side edge, the plurality of projections being disposed in two longitudinal rows, with a first longitudinal row disposed between the second recess and the first side edge and a second longitudinal row disposed between the second recess and the second side edge.

25. A clamp in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the second recess is free of projections.

26. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the shim includes a pair of side edges and a pair of end portions, the end portions extending beyond the side edges.

27. A clamp in accordance with Claim 26, wherein the end portions are in the form of extensions with rounded corners.

28. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the hanger comprises a wire loop extending from the clamp for engagement with a support structure.

29. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the hanger is insulated.

30. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the slide includes a third recess.

31. A clamp in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the shim includes a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, the first surface defining the second recess and the second surface defining a bulged surface opposite the second recess, wherein the third recess receives the bulged surface.

32. A clamp in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first tapered portion, the slide includes a second tapered portion being generally complementary to the first tapered portion, and the first and second tapered portions cam against one another as the slide is shifted from the first position to the second position to generate the clamping force.

33. A clamp for supporting a cable having a signal-carrying portion and a non-signal-carrying portion, comprising:

a tapered housing having a first gripping surface capable of engaging a cable and defining a first longitudinal groove capable of receiving at least a portion of a cable;

a tapered slide engageable with the housing for pressing a cable against the first gripping surface;

a shim disposed between the housing and the slide having a second gripping surface capable of engaging a cable and defining a second longitudinal groove capable of receiving at least a portion of a cable; and

a hanger portion to mount and support the clamp;

wherein the housing and shim move relative to one another to hold at least a portion of a cable within the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove by compressive force, and wherein the size of the first longitudinal groove and second longitudinal groove are selected according to the size of a cable such that the compressive force exerted on a signal-carrying portion of a cable does not adversely affect the signal-carrying capability of a signal-carrying portion of a cable.

34. A clamp in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the compressive force is exerted substantially on a non-signal-carrying portion of a cable.

35. A clamp in accordance with Claim 33, wherein at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces comprises an abrasive surface.

36. A clamp in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the abrasive surface includes at least one projection.

37. A clamp in accordance with Claim 36, wherein that at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections.

38. A clamp in accordance with Claim 37, wherein the plurality of projections are disposed in two longitudinal rows.

39. A clamp in accordance with Claim 38, wherein at least one of the first longitudinal groove and second longitudinal groove is free of projections.

40. A clamp in accordance with Claim 36, wherein that at least one projection has an elongated configuration.

41. A clamp in accordance with Claim 40, wherein the at least one projection elongated in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the clamp.

42. A clamp in accordance with Claim 36, wherein the at least one projection has a circular configuration.

43. A clamp in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the abrasive surface comprises an intentionally roughened portion of at least a portion of at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces.

44. A clamp in accordance with Claim 43, wherein the intentionally roughened portion is created by subjecting at least one of the first and second gripping surfaces to sandblasting.

45. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the slide includes a third longitudinal groove.

46. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 45, wherein the shim includes a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, the first surface having the second longitudinal groove and the second surface having a bulged surface opposite the second longitudinal groove, wherein the third longitudinal groove receives the bulged surface.

47. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the shim includes a pair of side edges and a pair of end portions, the end portions extending beyond the side edges.

48. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 47, wherein the end portions are in the form of extensions with rounded corners.

49. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the hanger portion comprises a wire loop extending from the clamp for engagement with a support structure.

50. A drop wire clamp in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the wire loop extends from the slide.